

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

MEETING
March 13, 2023

Subject to Commission Approval

The Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Szymanski at 6 PM in the Parks and Recreation office, Town Hall Annex, 25 School Street, East Windsor, CT

PRESENT: Chairman Szymanski; Commissioners Bagdikian, Lansner; BOS Liaison Muska; Director Maltese, A. Irene Mosher from the Park Office.

ABSENT: Commissioner Simpkins and Taylor

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established as three (3) Commissioners were present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michael Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Road, Broad Brook, CT. 06016

- During the Nov. 14th meeting Chairman Szymanski asked if there was any way to provide a head count of Park attendees that used the swimming area and I also believe the splash pad. This exchange did not appear in the minutes. Mr. Ceppetelli suggested that using the camera surveillance would possibly provide an accurate head count of park attendees and their usage in different areas.
- Questioned why the basketball court and tennis/pickleball court lighting remains on during the winter months. Turning off the lights during the winter would save electricity costs.
- It is well over two years that the lighting on the tennis court/pickleball court at EWP have not worked. When will the lights be fully functional? The town spends 100s of thousands of dollars on playgrounds for children 12 and under but can't find a way to repair lighting on park amenities that service all age groups.
- There has been an increase in the amount of litter that has blown from Reservoir Ave Park onto property. The litter is related to the seeding and erosion control methods used last May.
- Two boxes of trash were presented to illustrate the problem along with a request that the park be maintained better to avoid this problem.
- It has been 2 years since the town removed 500+ trees that provided a noise and privacy buffer for abutting property owners. In the two years no tree has been replaced nor has there been a suitable response from the town to the complaints and questions from property owners. If the town thinks that residents are just going to forget about the broken promises, damaged property and the 10's of thousands of dollars of expenses

that some of us have incurred fixing property damage and restoring the quality of life we had prior to the tree removal, you are sadly mistaken.

Tom Lansner, 27 Laurel Circle, East Windsor, CT 06088. Mr. Lansner commented on how great the railings and ramps are at Volunteer Park. He also commented that he disagreed with the tone heard in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To APPROVE minutes of November 4, 2023 Meeting as written
Bagdikian moved/Lansner second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Memorial Tree Planting Policy*

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Budget 2023-2024

Director Maltese stated that there was a zero percent increase in the budget except for payroll items

- b. Financial Account Review 2022-2023

The Commission members were given a copy of the budget figures today. The Director noted that the department is in good shape to finish the fiscal year.

- c. 2023 User Fees for field rentals and park

MOTION: To ACCEPT To maintain the fees at East Windsor Park with no increase.
Bagdikian moved/Lansner second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous

MOTION: To ACCEPT To increase the fees at the Abbe Road Soccer Complex from \$100 per game to \$150 per game

Bagdikian moved/Lansner second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous

- d. Fishing Derby – May 6, 2023

MOTION: To ACCEPT to donate \$250 to Broad Brook Angling to use as prizes for the fishing derby.

Lansner moved/Bagdikian second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous

Discussion: Chairman Szymanski asked if \$250 was enough and the director replied that was the amount requested.

- e. Bunny Breakfast – April 2, 2023

The Bunny Breakfast will be held April 2, 2023 from 8:30 -11:30am at the East Windsor Senior Center. The money raised from this event is used to sponsor East Windsor children who wish to attend camp and need financial assistance.

- f. Park Directors report.

- Soccer shelter: The Commissioners were given a picture of the Soccer Shelter for Abbe Road Soccer Complex. This is an Eagle Scout Project. Funds are currently being raised to purchase the second shelter. Commissioner Lansner questioned if the shelters could be removed or would need to remain year round. The Director stated that the shelters would be installed on a concrete slab and would be removed and stored during the winter. Thank you to Tim Misluk.
- Panther Plunge: \$17,427 was raised at this event and the funds are to help with fuel assistance for East Windsor Residents. Already looking forward to next year's event.
- Playground: Bid document being finished by BSC Group
- Camp registration is open: There will be 7 weeks this year with 50 slots available each week.
- Staff Openings: Applications are being received and interviews are taking place to fill open positions.
- Swim Lessons: Swim lessons for one session will be free to East Windsor Residence thanks to the grant received from Greater Hartford Community Grant. The cost for nonresidents is \$50.
- The CIT program has been added back in this year. This is a good training experience for young people who might eventually be able to be counselors at the summer camp.

Broad Brook Pond Park/East Windsor (Reservoir) Park/Pierce Memorial Park (Windsorville)/Prospect Hill Park (Warehouse Point)/Warehouse Point (Osborne Field) Park:

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MISCELLANEOUS

Softball field at EWHS named after Karen Drake. A Ceremony will take place on 4/13 rain date 4/14 at 4:30.

Chairman Szymanski thanked the Parks and Rec department for their assistance in facilitating registrations for Youth basketball. He stated they would not have the numbers if it were not for this help.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills were approved by Commissioner Lansner

ADJOURMENT

MOTION: To AJOURN MEETING AT 6:28 pm

Bagdikian moved/Lansner second/Vote: In favor Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted

Alma Irene Mosher
Recording Secretary